

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8305
INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9677

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,VS,ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN RELATIONS WITH GVN

REFS: A. SAIGON 14519 B. JAKARTA 12974

1. WHILE GVN DESIRE THAT INDONESIA ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY AT SAIGON IS UNDERSTANDABLE, I SEE VERY LITTLE PROSPECT OF OUR INFLUENCING THE INDONESIANS TO DO SO AT THIS TIME AND, MOREOVER, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO MAKE THE EFFORT SUGGESTED IN REF A PARA 4.

2. THE INDONESIANS BELIEVE THAT IF THEY WERE TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GVN, THIS ACT WOULD DIMINISH THEIR NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, REDUCE THEIR ABILITY, BOTH CURRENT AND POTENTIAL, TO PERFORM USEFUL SERVICES WITH PRG AND DRV. REF B DESCRIPTION OF GOI THINKING AND PREOCCUPATION WITH PRESERVATION OF ITS NON-ALIGNED POSITION IS STILL VALID.

3. THERE ARE TWO OTHER MATTERS THAT MAKE ME QUESTION WHETHER THIS IS RIGHT TIME TO URGE CLOSER GOI TIES WITH SAIGON (HAVING IN MIND THAT GOI SYMPATHIES AND HOPES
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REST WITH GVN). ONE IS THE INTENSE INDONESIAN INTEREST

IN THE DENOUEMENT IN CAMBODIA AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT MAY WANT TO CALL UPON INDONESIA, BECAUSE OF ITS REASONABLY SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH DRV, TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN SEEKING AN ACUEOMMODATION AMONG THE CONTENDING CAMBODIAN PARTIES. (I BELIEVE THE INDONESIANS ALSO HARBOE SAME HOPES OF PLAYING SUCH ROLE AND, THEREFORE, WOULD SHY AWAY FROM ANY STEP THAT MIGHT QUEER THEIR CHANCES RE CAMBODIA.) SECONDLY, INDONESIANS ARE BEING PRESSED BY ROK TO RAISE GOI-ROK RELATIONS TO FULL DIPLOMATIC LEVEL -- WITH AT LEAST FAIR PROSPECT OF SUCCESS. (JAKARTA 9623, NOT SENT SAIGON). NOT ONLY DOES THIS, IN MY VIEW, MAKE IT VERY UNLIKELY GOI WOULD ENTERTAIN SIMILAR STEP TOWARD GVN AT THIS TIME -- BUT ALSO OUR INTERVENTION ON GVN ISSUE COULD ADVERSELY INFLUENCE GOI ACTION ON ISSUE OF RELATIONS WITH ROK.

3. ON BALANCE, I BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE WOULD BE SEEKING, I.E., THE APPEARANCE OF BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN GOI AND GVN, IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE PRESERVATION OF WHATEVER SPECIAL ACCESS AND GOOD RELATIONS WITH DRV AND PRG, COMBINED WITH GOI AD HOC BUT HELPFUL RELATIONS WITH GVN, THAT GOI MAY HAVE AND BE WILLING TO USE TO SERVE USG AND GVN INTERESTS. IN ANY CASE, I BELIEVE THAT ANY REPRESENTATIONS TO GOI ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REF A WOULD BE MET BY POLITE SILENCE AND THAT GVN WILL GET FURTHER WITH INDONESIANS IF THEY, NOT WE, WORK FOR CLOSER RELATIONSHIP.
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